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EramMONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

James J. Flaherty, Commissioner UCC Building-P.O. Box 1728-Helena, Montana Fredric D. Moulton, Commissioner

FL. 284

HELENA INDEPENDENT - RECORD

JUNE, 1968

Job Totals Climb in Montana Setting Another Record

Industrial Jobs Make More New Records—Montana's labor market gained more momentum during May as the spring job expansion continued in most industry groups. The addition of 2,200 workers to May payrolls brought total non-farm employment to 189,700. This was an increase of 1,000 over the May 1967 employment figure and the fifth consecutive month this year for a monthly job total higher than the comparable month of all past years.

Monthly Job Gains In Most Groups—Job totals from April to May this year were up in six of the 8 major industry groups. Trade, responding to the increased activity generated by the forces of spring, added 1,000 workers to payrolls. The closely related service industry group showed a job gain of 600 wage earners. A 500 worker increase in the manufacturing group was connected to the seasonal upswing in logging and lumbering activities. The transportation, communications and utilities group was up 200. Job gains of 100 each were recorded in mining and in government. Statewide job totals in finance, insurance, and real estate firms, at 7,300, did not change from the April total. Construction was the only industry to show a job decline from April to May this year. A 300 worker drop from April payrolls is attributed partially to completion of some projects, and to the presence of a labor dispute in northwestern Montana during part

of May

Across The State Construction Wise With the huge Libby Dam project in northwestern Montana heading the list, construction a cross the width and breadth of Montana is in many shapes and forms. Job totals on the Libby project, now at the 1,400 mark, will increase to approximately 2,000 workers later this season. This activity has stimulated other building in that area including schools, commercial buildings, and new homes. New educational buildings are under construction in Billings, Bozeman, and Dillon. New banks are on the building scene at Anaconda and Sidney. Helena has a \$750,000 senior citizens apartment project under way. The designation of Helena and Butte as Model Cities will spur more new construction. New motels are on the agenda at Hamilton and Missoula. Lewistown has a \$54,000 post office remodeling job and a \$304,000 addition to the Russell Art Gallery at Great Falls has started. Railroad shop buildings of substantial size are underway at Havre and Missoula. Interstate highway projects keep at good pace throughout the state. Construction payrolls will continue up-ward in the coming months with new projects and stepped up activity on existing ones.

Logging and Lumbering Now Rolling Along—Logging has now shaken off the effects of the spring break-up period. Employment in woods and mills in-

creases weekly. Shortages of timber fallers and logging equipment operators exist in some areas. Many mills are now hiring students for summer employment.

Trade and Service Seasonally Responsive—The start of the spring buying season plus the opening of national parks and resort areas made for a good showing in trade and service firms during May. The usual job shortages are now developing, including cooks, waitresses, service station attendants, sales and clerical personnel. The opening of a new Great Falls restaurant made 40 new jobs. Three new trade firms opened in Billings. A new shopping center adds to the Bozeman business scene. Trade and service volume at Lewistown will get a boost this summer with an expected population increase of 1,000. The Boeing Company and sub-contractors will be in that area for about a year working at missile sites there

sites there.

UCC Claims Drop 2,700 In May—Responding to the spring job expansion in all industry groups, claims for jobless benefits dropped 2,708 during May. Weekly claim declines will continue during the good summer employment months, with a low for the year expected late in September. At that time the claim total should be at least 8,000 below the claim high of 9,347 for the year recorded for the week of January. 19, 1968.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

		ACC	CESSI	ON RA	TE		SEPARATION RATE									
INDUSTRY	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff			
	Apr. 1968	Mar. 1968	Apr. 1967	Apr. 1968	Mar. 1968	Apr. 1967	Apr. 1968	Mar. 1968	Apr. 1967	Apr. 1968	Mar. 1968	Apr. 1967	Apr. 1968	Mar. 1968	Apr. 1967	
All Manufacturing Durable Goods Primary Metal Nondurable Goods	5.8 7.1 6.2 3.3	4.2 4.4 .4 4.0	5.1 6.0 5.2 3.2	5.1 6.3 3.8 2.8	3.3 3.7 .2 2.6	4.5 5.2 3.6 2.9	5.7 7.0 9.2 3.2	4.0 4.3 2.9 3.4	4.5 5.3 5.1 2.8	4.2 5.5 8.2 1.6	2.6 3.0 1.1 1.8	3.2 3.8 3.6 2.1	.7 .5 .2 1.0	.7 .3 *	.3 .3 *	
All Mining	6.9 1.8	3.9 1.3	4.3 4.1	2.5 .2	1.2 .4	2. 0 1.1	6.5 8.7	2.9 2.1	6.5 8.0	2.0 1.6	1.9 .6	2.9 3.1	2.6 4.4	.1	.6 .8	

1 n = 69 May 67

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for May

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—Trade volume, especially in durable goods, expected to be at low levels for some time to come. Smeltermen now concentrating on paying off backlog of bills which piled up during the 8½ month strike. New Anaconda bank only major building project active in area. Hiring in government and farm at good seasonal pace.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Construction faced some temporary problems during May in the form of wet weather and several short-lived Iabor disputes. Highway project job totals were up by more than 100 men. Current and planned building projects should employ the majority of skilled craftsmen this summer. Three new eateries under construction. Trade employment increasing with opening of new firms, summer business expansion, and tourism. Farm labor shortages continue as work season advances.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—Good agenda of building, highway, and bridge projects keeps most construction workers occupied. Work on new shopping center near completion. Shortages of cooks and waitresses developing as business grows. Lumber mill production slowed by log shortages. Availability of student labor will aid farm employers.

BUTTE. Virginia City, Whitehall—Exodus of Butte miners not recalled to local mining operations continue. Five out of state mining firms have hired these men and some recruitment efforts still active. Unemployment claim total 2,582 above year ago. Moderate improvement noted in trade and service firms. Building construction at fair realization.

CUT BANK—Responding to good weather, outdoor work in construction, oil fields and agriculture kept at good momentum. A Browning lumber mill still closed with bad roads at logging elevations preventing movement of cut timber. Trade and service job totals at good seasonal strength.

DILLON—More than 100 farm job placements during the mouth; some shortages of experienced flood irrigators. Construction employment stays at high levels as work continues on school buildings and new homes. Twin Bridges main street improvement project com-

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

277.4		
	1.8	-13.3
263.3	.5	-11.3
219.9	3.5	— .2
188.7	2.2	1.0
43.4	-3.0	-11.1
.3	.1	0
13.8	-2.4	-2.0
5.0		
3.2		
	13.8 5.0	13.8 —2.4 5.0

pleted. Fifty workers now employed by mining firm in area.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Labor demand at good force in most industry groups. Work on new high school has 30 employed. Transportation employment up as military families prepare to leave phased-out air base. Exit of wives of military personnel have left job openings for elerical and food industry workers.

GLENDIVE—Circle, Wibaux—Fifty per cent increase in industrial job placements from last year tied to increased construction a ctivity. New project includes addition to high school. Steady trends cover main street firms with worker shortages being relieved by availability of students for summer work. Work in sugar beet fields main farm activity.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Current economic indicators point to good strength in all industry groups. Construction, however, shows some signs of moderate slow-down with increasing interest rates a major factor. Hiring of smelter and railroad workers was at good rate throughout the month, Trade and service volume reflects increasing tourism and good local economic conditions. Farm labor supply and demand kept fairly well in balance.

HAMILTON, Stevensville — Unemployment declines as jobs develop in line with the season. Good trends noted especially in outdoor work except for construction. Forest service hiring completed for season with budget restrictions curbing new hiring. Trade employment up seasonally.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—Industrial employment totals look good with

most activity in construction, trade, and oil fields. Street improvement project in Harlem now getting underway involving 27 blocks. More main street hiring seen as summer season advances.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—No marked changes noted on labor market scene during May except for heavy registration of students for summer work. Current construction projects making good progress but with little new hiring. Cooks, waitresses and other food industry workers were in short supply. Job trends should appear brighter in June.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, White-fish—May labor market highlights included resumption of logging, farm hiring, upturn in main street business, and settlement of several labor disputes at month's end. Supply of skilled workers now reduced to minimum except for carpenters. Farm job placements were mainly in potato cellars.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Local population expected to increase by 1,000 this summer when the Boeing Company and its sub-contractors are at full force. Main street business will benefit accordingly. Farm labor shortages dwindling as youth seek summer jobs.

LIBBY—Libby Dam job totals, now near the 1,400 mark, expected to peak at 2,000 by August. Visitor's center near completion. Work continues on railroad track relocation, tunnel, etc. First concrete at dam already poured. Logging, mills, and trade employment at good volume. Farm job trends on slow side.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—Increasing demand for workers in local econ-

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oet.	Nov.	Dee.	Aver.
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.1	174.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	184.9	182.2	178.4	175.4	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	174.4	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	174.2	180.2	185.4	195.6	198.2	199.2	195.8	191.2	187.6	186.9	186.7
1967	179.9	178.5	180.1	184.6	188.7	199.0	201.4	196.6	195.4	193.8	191.7	189.7	189.9
1968	181.0	180 4	181.8	187.5	189.7*					100.0	*****	100.1	100.0

^{*} Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for May

omy and Yellowstone Park ran into worker shortages with cooks most in demand. Recall of construction workers continued. Railroad job totals now stabilized after 74 layoffs earlier. Farm worker shortages still evident.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—May rains were welcomed on the farm front but temporarily stalled oil field activities in the Bell Creek field. Work started on new Yellowstone River bridge between Rosebud and Carterville. Work continues on grain elevator and medical clinic building. Some worker shortages developed as economy showed more seasonal strength.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—Industrial employment totals appear to have leveled off with but a 2% increase from April. Good agenda of highway and building projects active. Logging and lumbering continues to look for workers skilled in that industry. Trade and service firms get added boost from increasing tourist traffic.

POLSON—Good trends in the lumber market set the job pace during May. Most mills at maximum production and now hiring youth for summer work. Construction activity slowed by strikes of laborers, carpenters and operating engineers during month. Trade and service at good levels.

SHELBY—Outdoor work, including construction and agriculture, at good force with good weather, a contributing factor. Main street and tourist oriented industries showing good job gains. Farm field work completed earlier this year than last.

SIDNEY—Local economy shows good strength and force both in industry and agriculture. More job gains in both will occur during June. Work continues on new bank and remodeling of sugar beet refinery. Sugar beet thinning started with 1,200 working fields.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Job trends now looking up especially in lumbering and logging. Shortage of timber fallers expected to continue, along with some logging equipment operators. Some construction workers still waiting for recall to jobs. Main street and service groups show more activity.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—Construction employment on major building and highway projects now near peak levels. New projects include Plentywood street improvement and highway construction near Wolf Point. Cafes, drive-ins, service stations and farm implement firms posted more job gains during May.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

 (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 719 selected Montana establishments.
 - from samples of 719 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,167 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

(Compiled in co-operation with Unite	ed State	s Burea	u of Lal	oor Statistics)
	E	MPLOYM	ENT	Net Change
INDUSTRY	May 1968 (2)	Apr. 1968 (3)	May 1967	Apr. '68 May '67 to Against May '68 May '68
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	189,700	187,500	188,700	2,200 1,000
Manufacturing	22,100	21,600	22,800	500 — 700
Durable goods	14,600	14,100	15,000	500 — 400
Lumber and timber products *Primary metals Other (4)	8,200 3,800 2,600	7,600 3,800 2,700	8,700 4,300 2,000	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Nondurable goods	7,500	7,500	7,800	00 — 300
Food and kindred products Printing and publishing Petroleum refining Other (5)	3,900 1,700 1,000 900	3,800 1,700 1,000 1,000	4,100 1,700 1,000 1,000	100 — 200 00 00 00 00 —100 — 100
Mining *Metal mining Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic Petroleum-natural gas production	4,900 2,500 800 1,600	4,800 2,500 800 1,500	6,800 4,500 900 1,400	100 —1,900 00 —2,000 00 — 100 100 200
Contract Construction Contractors, building construction Contractors, other than building Contractors, special trade	9,800 2,800 3,500 3,500	10,100 2,800 3,600 3,700	11,300 3,800 3,900 3,600	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Transportation and utilities Interstate railroads Transportation except railroads Utilities including communication	7,000 7,000 4,600 6,100	$6,800 \\ 4,600$	7,300 4,200 6,100	200 100 200 — 300 00 400 00 00
Trade	45,300 8,800	44,300 8,800	44,500 8,900	1,000 800 00 — 100
Retail trade	36,500 6,800 5,400 9,700 7,600 7,000	35,500 6,500 5,400 9,100 7,600 6,900	35,600 _6,400 5,500 9,500 7,300 6,900	1,000 900 300 400 00 — 100 600 200 00 300 100 100
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,300	7,300	7,200	00 100
Services and miscellaneous Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc. Personal services Other (6)	28,400 3,200 2,100 23,100	27,800 2,900 2,000 22,900	28,100 3,400 2,200 22,500	$ \begin{vmatrix} 600 & 300 \\ 300 & 200 \\ 100 & 100 \\ 200 & 600 \end{vmatrix} $
Government Federal State and local	54,200 12,200 42,000	54,100 12,000 42,100	50,400 12,300 38,100	100 3,800 200 — 100 —100 3,900
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	24,500	24,100	23,700	400 800
*Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate Services and miscellaneous (7) Government	3,600 2,200 2,000 6,400 1,400 4,000	3,500 2,200 2,000 6,200 1,400 3,900	3,600 2,000 2,200 6,100 1,300 3,900	100 00 00 200 00 - 200 200 300 00 100 100 100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County) Manufacturing Contract Construction Transportation and Utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,900 27,000 2,800 1,600 3,000 8,500 1,400 5,100	4,900 27,000 2,800 1,600 2,900 8,400 1,400 5,100	4,600 26,300 2,900 1,500 2,900 8,100 1,400 5,000	00 300 00 700 00 — 100 00 100 100 400 00 00 00 100
Government *Copper Strike Started 7/15/67	4,600		4,500	-200 100

- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation,
- medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise
- classified.
 (7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MAY, 1968 AND MAY, 1967

Employment	Ne	w Job	Applica	ints	Jo	bseekei	s in F	ile			J	lob Pla	cements				UI CI	aims*
Service	May,	1968	May	, 1967	May,	1968	May	, 1967		May,	1968			M	lay, 196	7	Wk	. 5-31
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1968	1967
Anaconda Billings Bozeman Butte Cut Bank Dillon Glasgow Glendive Great Falls Hamilton Havre Helena Kalispell Lewistown Libby Livingston Miles City Missoula Polson Shelby	77 271 257 61 148 62 82 761 112 27	27 219 64 109 7 31 33 12 115 5 14 50 6 42 9 20 160 8 6	157 523 498 31 62 113 68 824 80 70 219 339 75 172 98 74 631 60 47	37 1926 69 93 93 18 8 168 17 7 31 79 11 50 17 128 15 128	259 1,543 224 1,414 218 74 73 214 1,509 172 106 806 612 48 239 78 1,573 253 888	58 523 421 401 73 16 13 25 29 148 29 148 182 13 56 15 18 413 26	261 1,917 223 1,045 239 65 83 109 2,328 186 128 517 553 543 17 559 108 1,530	76 654 175 69 12 14 22 618 45 18 93 153 25 97 40 21 305 31	577 5887 218 83 411 388 94 667 572 500 299 148 208 700 29 308 366 344	32 883 55 16 47 114 240 104 58 40 115 2 23 527 53 10 27	89 1,470 273 99 88 152 108 307 714 70 200 201 248 185 31 191 619 361 661	16 3355 66 30 51 27 230 22 50 78 64 64 10 64 108 8	79 549 176 101 27 39 110 36 527 61 167 229 75 58 94 949 366 511 28	26 832 86 20 43 124 25 261 163 36 99 41 146 134 40 574 48 12	105 1,381 262 121 70 163 145 297 163 208 275 209 58 134 623 414 83 655	27 306 78 43 26 69 44 14 261 29 53 65 71 18 45 13 172 21 23	87 478 802 83 25 43 23 368 57 56 153 318 195 36 228 53 228	108 588 72 299 32 32 55 55 55 54 206 44 239 41 279
Sidney Thom. Falls Wolf Point Billings YOC	59 28 35 371	4 7 6	82 28 43 363	12 10 18 9	105 106 110 1,125	31 33 18	112 113 153 725	13 31 43 23	73 20 24 135	443 1 21 16	516 21 45 151	22 4 13 4	59 27 33 123	198 49 160	257 27 82 283	19 9 39 5	17 53 35	31 41 34

^{*}Includes 212 claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 183 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

					- 4					
	Averag	e Weekly l	Earnings	Avera	ge Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings			
INDUSTRY	May (1) 1968	Apr. (2) 1968	May 1967	May (1) 1968	Apr. (2) 1968	May 1967	May (1) 1968	Apr. (2) 1968	May 1967	
All Manufacturing	131.22	128.88	117.87	40.5	39.9	38.9	3.24	3.23	3.03	
Durable Goods	131.75	128.30	115.35	41.3	40.6	39.1	3.19	3.16	2.95	
Primary Metals Nondurable Goods	$\frac{131.74}{129.79}$	$131.74 \\ 130.26$	$\frac{120.58}{124.36}$	$\begin{array}{c} 39.8 \\ 38.4 \end{array}$	39.8 38.2	40.6 38.5	3.31 3.38	3.31 3.41	2.97 3.23	
Food and Kindred Products	119.47	117.87	112.75	39.3	38.9	39.7	3.04	3.03	2.84	
All Mining	120.05	119.73	133.53	37.4	37.3	40.1	3.21	3.21	3.33	
Metal Mining	108.44	108.10	133.45	34.1	34.1	39.6	3.18	3.17	3.37	
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.) Transportation (except railroads) Utilities and Communications	NA NA 117.35	NA NA 117.35	NA NA 118.26	NA NA 38.1	NA NA 38.1	NA NA 38.9	NA NA 3.08	NA NA 3.08	NA NA 3.04	

⁽¹⁾ Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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